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CONTACT:

Kendra Horn
(202) 225-2701

Carson Secures \$650,000 For KIBOIS Area Transit

KIBOIS Will Build Maintenance and Training Facility

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Kendra Horn
(202) 225-2701

Washington, D.C. – Eastern Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) announced that he has secured \$650,000 for KIBOIS Area Transit System (KIBOIS), which provides services to the residents of Adair, Cherokee, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McIntosh, Pittsburg and Sequoyah Counties. KIBOIS will use these funds to construct a new maintenance and training facility in Stigler. This money was included in the Omnibus Appropriations bill, which was signed into law early this year.

“I am extremely pleased that we were able to obtain these much-needed funds for KIBOIS,” said Congressman Carson. “KIBOIS’s transportation services provide many people with vital access to healthcare, work and school. This funding will be used to build a new maintenance and training facility that will enhance their ability to serve the people of eastern Oklahoma.”

KIBOIS is the largest rural transit system in Oklahoma. They currently operate 115 vehicles from minivans to 25 passenger buses and employ over 110 people. The current maintenance facility is too small for the mechanics to service the buses and KIBOIS does not have a permanent space for training. The new building will include increased room for maintenance, office space and a training center.

Charla Sloan, Director of KIBOIS expressed her excitement about the grant and her appreciation for Congressman Carson’s assistance in acquiring it. She said the grant will allow KIBOIS to build a state-of-the art facility where they can take care of all maintenance for their vehicles and provide hands-on training for their drivers. Sloan

further stressed KIBOIS's need for a new maintenance facility, saying that they make "maximum use" of their vehicles, which run all day long, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

KIBOIS works with DHS to transport individuals to and from work and school, and with Oklahoma's Sooner Ride program to transport people to and from Doctor's appointments. KIBOIS also provides transportation for children attending headstart and for seniors who might otherwise be homebound. In addition, KIBOIS administers a federal job access grant through a program called "Road to Work Oklahoma." In conjunction with 18 other transit systems across the state this program serves almost 130 work routes and transports over 1,000 people to and from work each day.

"I am proud to announce that we were able to get this vital funding by working closely with KIBOIS as well as local and regional authorities," said Congressman Carson. "I look forward to KIBOIS's continued growth and service to Oklahoma residents."

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